

The Southeast News

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 7

MAY 1965

Convention Votes To Form United Church Conference

By a vote of 116 to 99 the delegates to the 1965 annual meeting of the Southeast Convention approved the agreement to form a United Church Conference in this geographical area.

In accordance with the agreement the Georgia-South Carolina, the Alabama-Mississippi, and the Tennessee-Kentucky Conferences of the Convention of the South (the Negro Congregational Christian Churches in this area) and the Alabama-Tennessee Region of Evangelical and Reformed Churches will become associations of the Southeast Convention. The convention already has six associations (some are called conferences), which means that for the time being it will be composed of ten associations.

There are twenty-five (25) Negro churches and four (4) Evangelical and Reformed churches involved.

The effective date of the agreement is January 1, 1966. After the new associations have joined it the Southeast Convention will take the necessary steps to become the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Even though the convention will officially become a United Church Conference, the churches of the convention which are not a part of the United Church can continue their relationship to the convention and will have standing as Congregational Christian Churches only.

The delegates to the sessions, the best attended in the history of the convention, elected Rufus G. Obrecht, active layman from Chattanooga, Tenn., moderator for the coming year. The Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, pastor of Central Church, Atlanta, Georgia, was chosen moderator-elect. Miss Ellen Hull, of Langdale, Alabama, was elected to the office of recording secretary, and W. J. Strickland of Decatur, Ga.,



RUFUS G. OBERECHT
Moderator



REV. FREDERICK A. MEYER
Moderator-Elect



MISS ELLEN HULL
Recording Secretary



W. J. STRICKLAND
Treasurer

was continued as treasurer.

Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, president of the United Church of Christ, and

Rev. George Nishimoto, of the Council for Church and Ministry, were the guest speakers for the annual meeting.

Manual For Local Church Officers Soon Available United Church Press

A manual for local church officers is now being published by United Press of the Division of Evangelism, and should be available in another six weeks.

It may be ordered only from Central Distribution Services, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19102 (or 2640 Pine Street, St. Louis, Mo., 63177). Price is \$1.00 per copy, no reduction in price for quantity orders since a book of this size, if published for the regular trade market, would have to be priced at twice that amount or more.

Titled "Perspectives for a Local Church Officer", the attractively paper-bound 128-page book was written by Dr. James E. Wagner, editor of the Conference Courier, former president of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and former co-president of the United Church of Christ.

The Literature Committee had requested Dr. Wagner to re-write for use in the United Church his earlier little book "So You're a Consistoryman!" which had wide use in the Evangelical and Reformed Church with a total distribution approximating 100,000 copies. It was clear, however, that more than a re-write was necessary. While much of the former book is incorporated in the new one, two new chapters have been added, an outline of major sections of the book including the following:

1. **Your Four-Way Heritage**, designed to aid in mutual understanding and enrichment as well as to demonstrate the large measure of common ground, depicts the varying traditions in local church office in the Congregational, the Christian, the Evangelical and the Reformed constituencies now in the United Church. For this chapter the author sought counsel from Dr. Douglas Horton, Dr. William T. Scott, and Dr. L. W. Goebel, and availed himself of assistance from the Congregational Library.

2. **Your New Testament Roots** gathers together sections of the New Testament portraying lay offices in the early church and their implications for the work of consistory, board of deacons, or church council in a United Church congregation.

3. **You Are a Republican** contrasts the papal, episcopal, presbyterian and congregational types of local church government, stresses the representa-

tive character of local lay office and the congregation as ultimate source of authority while at the same time it has bound itself by obligations to the larger fellowship.

4. **You Organize For Mission** emphasizes the missionary character of a congregation, lists eighteen "areas of concern" for mission in which the local church must be organized and links these areas of concern with the corresponding instrumentalities of the United Church as the source and channels through which the congregation can share more fully in the worldwide Christian mission. The desirable size and structure of a church is considered and its major general responsibilities suggested.

5. **You Minister With The Minister** emphasizes the ministry of the whole congregation, ordained and unordained, attempts to interpret some of the distinctive aspects of the ordained ministry, the mutual responsibilities of pastor and people, such matters as "the pastor's material care" and procedures when a pastorate ends and a congregation begins the quest for a new pastor, and concludes with a section on the church council's "monthly meeting."

Throughout the book, in addition to the New Testament as a primary source, the author has let himself be guided by the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ and the model Form for Constitution and/or By-Laws for a Local Church of the United Church of Christ. Most, if not all, of the pertinent sections of these two documents are incorporated in the book to make it as readily useful to lay church officers as possible.

One of the most frequent requests in our conference is in training for members of our Trustee Boards, Elders and Deacons, their duties and responsibilities. You will find the *Perspectives for a Local Church Officer* helpful in your training program within the local parish. It is a needed tool in the administrative end of the organizational pattern of the United Church of Christ.

Sunday Church Bulletin Service For Churches

This spring, for the first time in the history of the two uniting denominations of the United Church of Christ, local pastors and lay leaders will see the designs of an entire year's series of United Church Sunday Bulletins far in advance of their publication.

A pictorial brochure illustrating all of the Sunday and Special Occasion Bulletins for 1965-1966 has recently been sent by the Stewardship Council to all pastors, associate and assistant pastors of churches throughout the denomination. The brochure was published by the Council to acquaint local pastors with the new and exceedingly effective Bulletin series which will be available for the first time in autumn.

The series is for use in all local churches subscribing to the United Church Sunday Bulletin Service, and new subscribers may receive the series by writing to the Stewardship Council. The service costs \$1.25 per hundred.

The front-cover designs of the new Bulletins utilize New Testament themes for the express purpose of meaningfully relating the gospel to life, worship to mission, and the church to the present-day world. The back cover of each Sunday's issue sets forth both an interpretation of the theme and a concrete example of the work of OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION as carried on by the United Church of Christ.

For example, the theme of the issue on next September 12, 1965, is "Who Is My Neighbor?" This theme appears beneath the design on the front cover. On the back cover appears the explanatory text: ". . . our neighbor is all men . . . the children, the laborers, the school drop-outs, the discriminated against and the discriminators in the neighborhoods of our own land, the struggling new nations, the victims of war and disaster, and those beyond the Iron and Bamboo Curtains in the neighborhood that is our world. Anyone who needs our help and our good will, he is our neighbor and we are his."

The effectiveness of the United Church Bulletins has long been recognized by local churches throughout the denomination. Today the Bulletins are the most widely circulated and read of all United Church publications, reaching 3,400 subscribing congregations and 600,000 United Church members every Sunday.

Extend Your Horizons
Read Your
Church Magazines

United Church Board For World Ministries

The United Church Board for World Ministries, in conjunction with missionary agencies of other denominations, is experimenting with new forms of missionary activities geared to the changes in society brought about by urbanization and industrialization. Studies are being made of the ministry, the organization and function of local churches and the role laymen can play in church leaderships.

Widespread experiments in industrial evangelism have been started, especially in new industrial complexes which are being developed far from established centers of population. The United Church is participating in ministries to industrial workers in Japan, the Philippines, India, Africa, and Germany.

Industrial evangelism often may be carried on under governments that would resist the building and operation of conventional churches.

In South Africa, for instance, the Rev. Robert Bergfalk, missionary of the United Church of Christ, works with a team of African ministers to furnish pastoral service to workers in the gold mines outside of Johannesburg.

Johannesburg is the center of the world's largest gold fields. Men come from all over Africa on long-term contracts to work in the mines. They may not bring their wives. They are housed in primitive barracks and may not leave the camps without permission of the management. Even with a permit, many are handicapped by language barriers, so cannot take part in normal social life.

Missionaries and African ministers may enter the mine compound only with special permits from the government but passes are usually granted willingly and without delay, Mr. Bergfalk reports. Members of his pastoral group visit the compounds almost daily to counsel the miners, and to hold worship services and conduct Bible study.

The men set aside a room in their barracks for the services. Only 20 may engage in worship at a time, Mr. Bergfalk says, but outside the barracks as many as 200 men gather around him and his companions for informal talks.

The ministers also help the miners keep in touch with their wives and families. Many messages home express

New Hampshire Church Studies Charges Against The United Church Curriculum

Through the mail many of the ministers and churches of the Southeast Convention have received letters and documents highly critical of the United Church Curriculum. In some cases there is no indication at all of the source of the basic documents involved.

Of course each person is entitled to his opinion as to whether the United Church Curriculum meets his needs and as to whether he agrees with all that the various authors may say.

However, before accepting all that any critic may say of the material as being true, the reader should examine the United Church Curriculum itself. This is the best answer to any attack on the curriculum.

Since many people do not have the time to do this, or do not have the materials readily available, the following experience in New Hampshire may prove of interest and help.

On November 9, 1964, the Board of Deacons of First Congregational Church in Derry, New Hampshire, voted to form a special committee comprised of the professionally trained educators within its own fellowship, for the purpose of studying the United Church Curriculum materials to determine whether or not they are designed to "undermine our youth," to "spread communism," or to "encourage atheism," as has been publicly charged. Every professionally trained educator in the church was contacted personally by the chairman of the committee and requested to serve — regardless of his or her particular predisposition toward the materials or toward the United Church of Christ.

After several weeks of reading, discussion, and evaluation — both in committee and privately — the members of the committee submitted individual reports to the committee, based upon their own research. The summary of these reports is presented in the following statement, and comprises the report made by the committee to the Board of Deacons on January 11:

"The committee wholeheartedly concurs that the United Church of Christ curriculum materials do not undermine

gratitude for the service being rendered by the ministers, Mr. Bergfalk says.

youth, encourage atheism, spread communism, or in any way lend themselves to the charges publicly brought against them. It appears that an extremist group in Derry, aided by materials of a calumnious character from a group in California, has tried to create disunity in the congregation of First Church by levying false criticism against the United Church of Christ curriculum materials. A study of the curriculum makes it clearly evident that such charges against the materials are completely unfounded.

As educators and Christians, we find that the materials have been carefully developed not only to teach the truths of the Bible, but to encourage and to facilitate the practice of these teachings as well. The curriculum is prepared for use in any one of many different community situations — from the most limited to the most progressive.

The lesson plans are extremely well prepared and contain a variety of presentations so as to provide each local church school teacher the opportunity to use the plan and the materials which best serve the needs of his or her local level of development.

The curriculum uses sound learning principles and is designed to accommodate itself to the unique growth rates and patterns of children at various stages of their development. The materials afford a global concept of the world and of man in the world. Its presentation is not sugar-coated; it is realistic and designed to encourage individual, wholesome thinking. The teacher preparation contained in the manuals is extensive and should serve both to enrich the teacher personally, and to prepare him or her for the specific lesson to be taught. The art that is used throughout the curriculum contains both traditional and modern works. The masters are abundantly represented.

In summary, we find that the United Church of Christ curriculum materials are excellent, and they can serve the purposes of Christian education well."

Excerpted from Feb. 1965
Congregational New Hampshire

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THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION of Congregational Christian Churches (The United Church of Christ)

673 Piedmont Avenue N. E.
Atlanta, Ga. TRinity 4-2558
Single Subscription \$1.50 per year
Group Subscription \$1.00 per year

STAFF

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Printed by The Roanoke Leader,
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. XIII May 1965 No. 7

Superintendent's Corner

On June 1 of this year I will have served as superintendent of the Southeast Convention for eight years. The years have been busy, exciting, sometimes difficult, and always full of joy and worthwhile experiences.

At the end of 1964 I shared with you the thought that my greatest disappointment of the year was the failure of the convention to approve the plan for the formation of a United Church Conference in this area. At the same time I expressed the hope that the annual meeting of 1965 would vote approval of the plan. This hope was fulfilled.

Long ago it had become clear that if the convention and its churches were to maintain their historic ties with their national fellowship, now the United Church of Christ, it would be necessary to form a United Church Conference along geographical rather than racial lines. This the convention is now prepared to do.

Quite obviously, not all of the ministers and churches of the convention have been in favor of the plan to form a United Church Conference. Now some may be tempted to withdraw from the convention.

I hope they will not do so. Ministers and churches need to be in fellowship with one another. Just as there would be no future for the convention as an independent organization without its historic national ties, so there is no future for our congregations if they break away from their historic fellowship.

The problems of the future cannot be so great but that, with God's help, we can solve them together. Let us continue our fellowship together.

New Friendship Press Resources Mission: The Christian's Calling

ADULT RESOURCES

Study-Action Manual For Mission: The Christian's Calling	\$1.25
The Word With Power, by De Dietrich (Bible Study)	.75
Realms of Our Calling, by Grimes (nature of mission)	.75
Babylon by Choice, by Marty (environment for mission)	.75
Mission as Decision, by Ikeler & Rowland (case studies of mission)	.75
Voices of Protest and Hope, by Dodds (anthology of writings)	1.95
Men for Others, by Rowland (biographies of people in mission)	1.95
Mission Myth and Reality, by Bridston (rethinking relevancy)	1.75

SENIOR HIGH RESOURCES

These Rebellious Powers, by can den Heuvel (powers that mold lives)	1.75
The Way in the World, by Adelberg (seven stories of decision)	1.75
Youth Guide on Mission: The Christian's Calling	.75

JUNIOR HIGH RESOURCES

Bigger Than All of Us, by Eastman (Christian unity)	1.00
Calling To Be, by Braun (what we are called to be)	1.00
A Guide for Early Teens on Mission: The Christian's Calling	.75

JUNIOR RESOURCES (Grades 4-6)

Sam's Secret Journal, by Yates (12-year-old's journal of faith)	1.75
They Lived Their Love, by Hathaway & Heppe (11 stories of faith)	1.75
Junior Teacher's Guide, for each of the above	.75

PRIMARY RESOURCES (Grades 1-3)

God's Church Is Everywhere, by Jones (heritage of the church mission)	1.75
George and the Chinese Lady, by Scovel (missionary to a neighbor)	1.75
Primary Teacher's Guide, for each of the above	.75

AN ADDITIONAL STUDY EMPHASIS:

Races and Reconciliation

Struggle of Decency, by Root & Hall (for adults)	1.95
Race Relations and Christian Mission, by Kitagawa (adult-youth)	1.95
Seeking to Be Christian in Race Relations, by Mays (senior high)	1.50
Sense and Nonsense About Race, by Alpenfels (senior highs)	.75
Youth Guide to Races and Reconciliation	.75

A NEW SERIES FOR YOUTH

Questions for Christians

Why Read the Bible? by Swaim (the relevance of the Bible)	.65
Can We Break Bread Together? by Varner (study of Communion)	.65
Must Walls Divide? by Harding (study of racial developments)	.65
East and West: One World or Two? by Ferwerda (faith and world)	.65

Further details about these and other Friendship Press Publications may be found in the Annual Announcement for 1965-66, free from United Church Bookstore, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Ala.-Tenn. Women's Guild Reports Recent Workshop



Pictured above are the ladies who attended the Alabama-Tennessee Women's Guild Workshop at the First Evangelical and Reformed Church in Nashville on April 27.

Representatives were present from the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in Belvidere, Tenn., Cullman and Birmingham, Alabama, as well as Nashville.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. Herman Liechty, Belvidere — President
Mrs. Hubert Richter, Cullman — Vice-President
Mrs. Harold Schulz, Cullman — Secretary
Mrs. James Campbell, Nashville — Treasurer

Other women's groups in the Ala.-Tenn. region will be invited to participate in the programs. A fall retreat has been planned for September 14 at Belvidere.

Cullman Pastor Author Of Appropriate Poem

The Rev. Harold A. Schulz, pastor of St. John's United Church, Cullman, Ala., wrote the following poem on the occasion of the formation of the Missouri United Church Conference. It seems appropriate to our situation.

GOING FORWARD TOGETHER
Let change be friend of progress; here
We see the one long way ahead with
hill
And valley reaching far. We do not
fear
The newness of a crimson dawn, but
thrill
In walking toward the challenge of the
day.
For we will press toward each horizon
heart
To heart in unity. The prayers we
pray
Must set the tempo, gauge this holy
start.

HERE AND THERE NEWS IN BRIEF

Rev. Albert L. Henry

The Rev. Albert L. Henry has submitted his resignation to Pilgrim Congregational Church, Birmingham, Alabama, effective June 1 of this year.

Mr. Henry began his ministry at Pilgrim Church in April of 1963. He had previously been Director of Pastoral Care at Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield, Mississippi. During his ministry at Pilgrim Church Mr. Henry has been active in the affairs of the convention as well as in community activities.

The Rev. and Mrs. Henry and their three daughters, Linda, Nancy, and Janet, will make their home at Koinonia Farms, Americus, Georgia, after June 1. Mr. Henry will be involved in the community relations program of the Koinonia project.

* * * *

LaForet Pastor's School

The annual LaForet Pastor's School will be held July 12 to August 1 at LaForet, Colorado.

The school is offered by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries for the benefit of pastors from all sections of the denomination.

Those whose applications are accepted will receive scholarship aid which covers all tuition, board and room for ministers, plus limited travel expense beyond the first \$20.00.

Ministers in the convention who are interested should contact Supt. Lightbourne immediately. Enrollment is limited.

* * * *

An Interesting Wedding

Five years ago two young men from Alabama went to Robbins and Deer Lodge in Tennessee to teach in Vacation Bible Schools as Student Summer Service Workers of the Southeast Convention.

One of these young men was Lowell Kennedy of Blackwoods, Headland, Ala. The other was Melvyn Roquemore

To put our trust in God's sufficiency,
To set our eyes beyond the stumbling
block

Which is not there, this is for us to see
And love and serve on Faith's un-
changing rock.

Blest balancer of life, direct our role
And lead us toward the Kingdom's
lofty goal.

Montgomery Church Forms Youth Group



Pictured above, left to right, are the members of the Youth Group of the Montgomery United Church: Debbie Shelton, Jessie Flager, Beverly McAdams, Bill Flager, and Bruce Black.

Bill Flager is the president of the group and Beverly McAdams is the secretary-treasurer. Mr. Millard Fuller is the adult leader for the newly organized group.

The youth group was represented at the annual meeting of the SEC PF-YF in Chattanooga. Beverly McAdams was elected recording secretary of the SEC PF-YF.

United Church Minister On "Frontiers Of Faith"

The Rev. Dr. Browne Barr, a United Church of Christ minister in Berkeley, California, will give a series of lectures on the contemporary application of the parables of Jesus Christ on NBC-TV's "Frontiers of Faith" June 6 to July 25.

Dr. Barr is minister of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley and lecturer at the Pacific School of Religion. His intention in the Sunday series, titled "Participating in the Parables", will be, he said, "to blend the best in modern New Testament scholarship with today's world of station wagons and soda fountains, of East Harlem and country clubs."

"My great hope is that the parables may become lively, relevant stories, rebuking and comforting, disturbing and reassuring the bewildered American of the Twentieth Century."

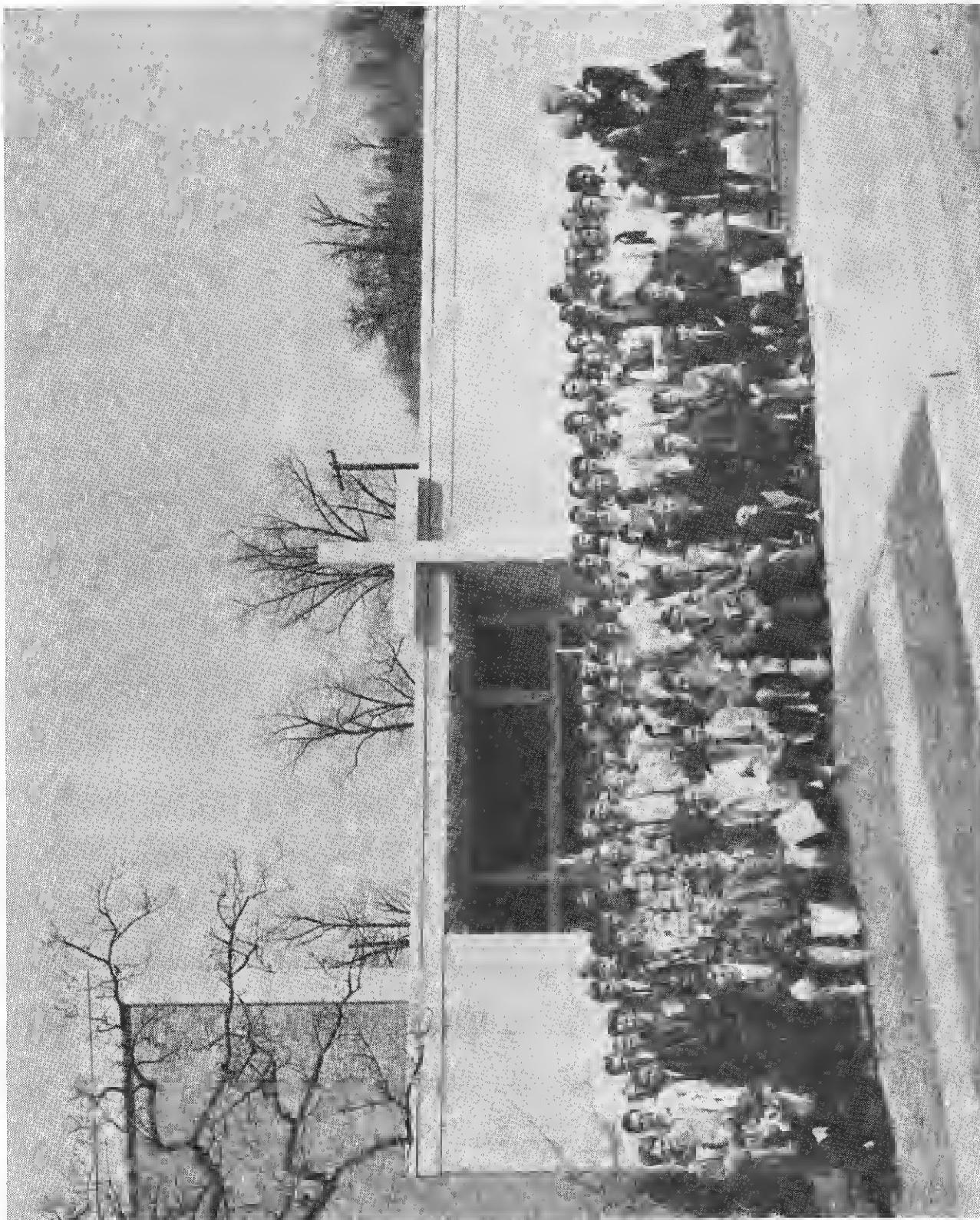
The 8-program series will be telecast on Sundays at 1:30 P. M. (EST).

of Lanett, Alabama.

Melvyn Roquemore, now of Dayton, Ohio, remembered Barton Chapel, Robbins, Tenn., and wished to be married there. His marriage to Miss Alice Belle Campbell, also of Dayton, was performed at the Barton Chapel on March 4 by Rev. Annie R. Campbell, who directed Melvyn's activities as a SSS Worker.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
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1965 Annual Meeting Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship
Chattanooga, Tennessee